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1. During the First Congress of the Albanian Communist Party, held at Tirana in November 1948, the Party's Politburo was addressed by Tuk Jakova, director of Party organizational and recruitment activities. A portion of his address, an apparently frank appraisal of the Party's progress so far in Albania, follows:
2. "Whereas during the 'National War of Liberation' a sort of sectarianism was manifested, after the liberation the doors of the Party were flung open in order to extend its membership. This policy, however, permitted the entrance into the Party not only of resolute and faithful persons, but also of unhealthy careerist elements, such as members of the Balli Kombetar and collaborationists, who had disguised their pasts by infiltrating the National Liberation Army and distinguishing themselves in attacks against the enemy. As we have said above, in November 1944 our Party had 2,800 members plus a considerable number of sympathizers. Between November 1944 and November 1945, 7,758 additional members were recruited; in the course of 1946, 2,031 members and 3,760 candidates were recruited. In 1947, 8,915 members and 13,257 candidates were recruited. In the first nine months of 1948, 9,806 members and 13,991 candidates were recruited.
3. "These figures show clearly how, shortly after the liberation, the doors of the Party were thrown open. Nevertheless, in 1946, the total number of members diminished, because of the purge of enemy elements.
4. "In the course of 1947 and 1948, the total number of members decreased, and our organizations carried out their recruitment activities energetically. Nevertheless, despite the numerically satisfactory recruitment in '47 and '48, it is necessary to note that the number of women members recruited in these two years was scanty; in all, only 968 women.
5. "The lack of realistic policies, the lack of a Party constitution, as well as the absence of control by the Party of the lower echelon organizations, resulted in recruitment not being carried out among the best elements. Emphasis was put on the quantity rather than on the quality of recruitment. And for this reason, recruiting proved to be in many cases deficient, as for example in the district of Tirana, where about 20 percent of the members of the Party, recruited during this period, turned out to be religious fanatics so superstitious that they fasted during Ramadan. Fanatical elements also

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existed on the local committees, as for example that of Shkoder. It was also ascertained that elements diametrically opposed to the Party and in league with the forces of reaction had entered the Party, for example in the organizations of Shijak and Himara.

6. "There also occurred cases of members being recruited involuntarily and even without their knowledge. There were cases of members, signed up during their absence and contrary to their wishes, who subsequently refused to attend Party gatherings, even after having been informed that they were members of the Communist Party.
7. "The extension of the Party's membership in these years, however, served to reestablish party organizations almost everywhere, both in the centers of labor and production and in the country areas. Toward the end of 1945, we had local organizations in all the communes of southern Albania and in the prefectures of Korce and Gjinokaster; we also set up organizations in a number of rural villages. At that time, in central and northern Albania, the Party was quite weak; we neither had organizations in all the communes nor, in many of them, did we have a single member. In 1945, in the centers of labor and production, we established five local organizations at Kucovo, as well as one each in the factories of Elbassan, Korce and Shkoder. Nowadays, our Party numbers 1,924 local organizations, plus 124 branch organizations. There still remain 47 localities which are without organizations. Also registered are 300 organizations and 30 branches among the factories, mines, and other enterprises; 47 organizations and 6 branches among agricultural enterprises and labor cooperatives; and, in the rural localities, 513 organizations and 38 branches.
8. "As a result of the recruitment achieved in these years, it is possible to note an improvement in the social composition of the Party. Here are figures reflecting the changing composition of the Party during the four years since the liberation:

	1945	1946	1947	1948
Total Party membership	10,558	11,837	20,217	29,137
Workers	15.3%	12.4%	15.3%	22.6%
(Poor	24.8%	41.0%	51.2%	54.3%
Peasants (Medium	22.6%	18.7%	13.6%	13.0%
(Rich	2.4%	6.0%	.2%	.2%
Members of professions			.04%	.1%
Office workers	6.8%	4.3%	6.3%	2.1%
Students (male)	14.3%	3.6%	1.3%	2.2%
Students (female)			2.3%	2.4%
Artisans	9.1%	6.7%	5.3%	1.8%
Miscellaneous	5.0%	12.2%	3.9%	1.8%

9. "The above table shows that the workers constitute 22.6% of the Party membership, the poor peasants 54.3%, and that the remainder is made up of students, artisans, et cetera. Today the Party has 29,137 members and 16,254 candidates for admission; that is, a total of 45,382 members and candidates. Thus, we have been able to incorporate in the Party 3.9% of the entire population of Albania.

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10. "It will be noted that the figures of 29,137 members of the Party and 16,245 candidates represent an anomaly, and may signify a lack of care, interest, and effort on the part of the local organizations towards the promotion of candidates to members of the Party. A candidate cannot remain such for an unlimited period. A candidate should be given membership in the Party as soon as he meets the standards prescribed by the Party's constitution.

11. "In case a candidate is excluded from membership, because he is not believed to measure up to the Party's standards, the reasons for his exclusion should be carefully pondered and the decision taken only after all efforts have been made to bring him up to our standards.

12. "The Party membership, broken down according to the year in which the members entered, is as follows:

Membership dating from 1941	129	0.4% of Albanian population.
Membership dating from 1942	299	1.2% of Albanian population.
Membership dating from 1943	1,008	3.4% of Albanian population.
Membership dating from 1944	3,678	12.6% of Albanian population.
Membership dating from 1945	4,507	15.4% of Albanian population.
Membership dating from 1946	2,031	6.9% of Albanian population.
Membership dating from 1947	7,930	27.2% of Albanian population.
Membership dating from 1948	9,555	32.7% of Albanian population.

13. "As far as the cultural and educational level is concerned, our Party is quite weak. Among the 29,137 members, we have:

Illiterates	543	1.8% of Party membership
Literate, but without schooling	5,684	19.5% of Party membership
Elementary school graduates	18,185	62.0% of Party membership
One to four years of intermediate school	3,410	11.6% of Party membership
Graduates of intermediate school	919	3.1% of Party membership
University students	328	1.2% of Party membership
University graduates	68	0.2% of Party membership

14. "The results of various purges of the ranks of the Party are as follows:

Purged up to 1945	320
Purged in 1946	1,682
Purged in 1947	468
Purged in 1948	395
Total	2,865

15. "Such is the condition of our Party."

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